

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by US 5,594,706 (Shenoy et al.). Claims 1, 6, 9, 13, 23 and 28 have been amended to further clarify the invention. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

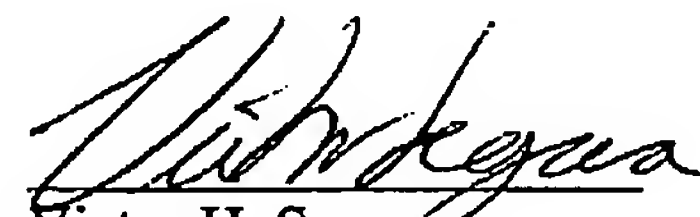
The present invention entails a sorting of peak component attributes in the STC plane to transform high-frequency information in the peak components to low frequency. This sorting is performed *after* the peak component attributes in the STC plane have been generated. The sorting is a conditioning step of the log data, enabling the decimation and production of compressed data. In contrast, Shenoy et al. describes methods to process sonic waveforms received at the receiver of a sonic tool (step 10 in Fig. 1), *before* the peak component attributes in the STC plane are generated (step 30a / 30b in Fig. 1). Furthermore, no sorting of the data to be compressed is suggested by Shenoy et al.: the processing methods taught by Shenoy et al. instead involve a bandpass filtering step for conditioning the waveforms before sampling according to various techniques, providing a compressed signal (see Abstract, or Column 4, Lines 39-46).

Additionally, as described in Applicants' original specification [Para 47], embodiments of the invention can be implemented with an optional filtering technique performed on the sorted peak components if desired.

Applicants submit that amended claims 1-30 are in condition for allowance and passage to issuance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be advantageous in advancing the issuance of this application, a call to the undersigned at (281) 285-4562 is encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

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